5- August- 2013

Short note on the Africa RISING Ethiopia partners meeting

**Attendees**

1. Peter Thorne (ILRI\Africa RISING)
2. Kindu Mekonnen(ILRI\Africa RISING)
3. Steffen Schulz(CIP)
4. Solomon Gebreselassie(CIP)
5. Valentine Gandhi (IWMI)
6. Simret Yasabu(ILRI\Africa RISING)
7. Eliud Birachi(CIAT)
8. Aster Gebrekirstos(ICRAF)
9. Kiros Hadgu (ICRAF)
10. Seid Ahmed Kemal(ICARDA)
11. Jane Wamatu (ICARDA)

**Agendas**

1. Follow up from the first meeting Action points
2. General update from each partner
3. On farm demo planning for the next few months

**Agendas 1: Follow up from the first meeting Action points**

**Action points 1**: Valentine and Eliud had a short meeting and a brief meeting about IWMI’s contribution for the value chain assessment and water management technologies

**Action points 2**: Simret had a discussion with Tsehay from KMIS about having a separate calendar page on the wiki for the Africa RISING in the Ethiopia highlands. The current set up page for the calendar is where all the three projects share and it is classified in the different years. It might be difficult to have a separate page for Ethiopia as it might also require for the other projects to have a separate one. Peter Thorne suggested it will not create that much problem as we will be considering the calendar to present from now on and no need to copy. It was agreed Simret and Peter to sit and discuss.

**Action points 3:** Peter Thorne has drafted a guiding note about the per diem and he shared it to the team before the meeting. Comments were provided including the need to add brief introduction, a justification /rationale on why we need it , incorporate the media people, needs to clarify when and what to pay for farmers. Finally it was agreed that Peter, Kindu and Solomon to further work on it

**Agendas 2: General update from each partner**

**IWMI**

* Completed the water assessment survey and Valentine will compile the report and will share to the group
* KickStart International will be providing 8 pups and the project to purchase 10 more that could be given to two Kebeles. This will help us to compare the difference that this will have with those who doesn’t have pumps.
* IWMI is planning to start the demonstration in two sites where by farmers have water storage but who doesn’t have the means to transport. Debre Berhan is one potential place to start. It was suggested to do a photo story to follow the story and which can help us to compare

**ILRI**

* There is a plan to collect a quantitative data for those farmers who will be participating on the demo. The questionnaire will take some four hours to complete, however, there is a plan to shorten it down. It was suggested for Peter to circulate the draft IFPRI survey instrument for the group to see and comment (it was point that it might not be that much open to comment )
* Africa RISING is organising its annual learning event in September from 24-26. The invitation to those who will be coming outside of Ethiopia has already been circulated and the participants from Ethiopia have already been decided. Thus, the invitation will be sent this week. The learning event has the objectives of learning from the projects and the program and also to plan for the next 12 months. There will be deeper discussion during the learning event on some thematic areas including gender, communication and monitoring and evaluation.

**ICARDA**

* There were field trips to four field sites and now they are collecting nutrition and crop yield data
* Preparation is undergoing for the main crop season planting
* Livestock feeding experiment facilities construction is going well and will be ready in the next few weeks
* The survey on crop residue: four pulses were selected (lentil, faba bean ,chickpea and field pea) to look in to the nutrition values of the crop residue and How farmers using the residue is complete in Bale. The final questionnaire interview/survey is being carried out in Debre Berhan.
* Steffen – was in Tigray in Africa RISING sites and observed the use of weeds as animal feed – he suggested to incorporate this in the ICARDA survey

**ICRAF**

* Carried out Local Ecological Knowledge study in SNNPR and Tigray. The study will continue in Oromia and Debre Berhan.
* There has been a Community group analysis done together with research centers
* There is a plan to facilitate the establishment of community seed and nursery sites
* While conducting the discussion with farmers ‘ enset was picked as a major staple food which is currently facing bacterial infections and it is good to support if we have experts in “Enset”
* Steffen mentioned that Wageningen University is starting a partnership with universities including Arba Minch university which we could link up with ‘
* During the study water was raised as a problem which shows that there needs to be a joint work to be done with IWMI

**CIP:**

* A qualified Postdoc candidate signed a contract and will be joining CIP as of October. 50% of the budget for him will be covered from Africa RISING and the remaining from CIP
* Steffen has been visiting the on-farm activities in Tigray and he mentioned that it was ok. However , it seems much of project driven .
* The on-farm crop planation was completed in all sites except Sinana and this will be completed by mid-August
* Jim has sent the PCA final report. Solomon and Kindu will work on the Kebele level report. IWMI will also add its part on water from Tigray. It was suggested to have hard copies to be shared during the learning event.
* With regard to the Innovation platform agreed to be established during the community workshop was suggested to be delayed until the Africa RISING site coordinators are in Place. Until then it was suggested to have a discussion with Beth and Alan to gain experiences from the NBDC existing platforms.

**CIAT**

* For value chains work, we extracted possible enterprises in the different sites. The list consists of existing and proposed enterprises.
* Documentation of data and information relating to these enterprises will follow: documentation tool (draft will be circulated tomorrow) for comments by Thursday
* Documentation work should begin on Monday 12th till end of the week. After that a report will be compiled by a smaller team. meanwhile a rapid market assessment tool will be completed by 16th Aug and be tested thereafter for use to collect market data/information on the proposed, existing and possible new enterprises -- this is expected to be conducted by end of this month

**Farm demo**

* There need to be a follow up on the farm demos for instance spraying and weeding.
* Tigray and SNNPR are taken care of by CIP staff members, Abiyot and Gebrehiwot. There need to be a discussion if Abiyot can follow the sites in Sinana in addition to Lemo until the site coordinators are in place. The Debre Birhan site can be followed by the local partners from the research, extension and University.

**AOB:** Peter mentioned that he wants to extend the contract of the Africa RISING partners in the Ethiopia highlands until December which will be funded against the deliverables agreed with partners for the period.– and then from January 2014 to September 2015 there will be another 18 months longer contract.